



# California Metals Coalition

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October 2, 2009

Representative Laura Richardson  
1725 Longworth House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

**Sent Via Fax: (202) 225-7926**

**RE: Action Needed to SUPPORT Funding for the Navy T-AKE Program**

The **California Metals Coalition (CMC)** was established in 1972 and today represents over 200 metalworking corporations and 7 regional metalworking trade organizations—employing over 25,000 Californians with living-wage manufacturing jobs and benefits.

California's metalworking industry is arguably the world's leader for **efficient, clean, and safe metal manufacturing**. When compared to manufacturing facilities around the world, California is often the place to find the most technologically advanced, and environmentally conscious metal manufacturers. We are also the **nation's largest recyclers**, recycling millions of tons of metal that would otherwise end up in landfills.

**CMC is writing you in support of the US Navy's T-AKE dry cargo-ammunition shipbuilding program.** Numerous metalworking facilities in California supply our armed forces with the necessary materials, equipment, and armaments to defend our nation. Unfortunately, the US Senate defense committees' proposed cuts in FY2010 funding for the Navy's T-AKE program is not acceptable for supporting our nation's navy fleet.

Disruption in funding—approximated at \$400 million—would also force manufacturers to directly cut good-paying jobs. Families are already worried about the economy and we do not need government to place further, avoidable burdens on working Californians.

The T-AKE program is one of the Navy's most successful shipbuilding programs. Eight of these ships have been delivered since June 2006 and four follow-on ships are now under construction. As you may also know, the House Defense Appropriations Committee supported the President's Budget request to fund T-AKE 13 and T-AKE 14 in FY2010. Recent military decisions have supported timely acquisition of both ships, in direct contrast to the proposed action by the Senate committees. The military requirement for all 14 T-AKE ships was re-validated by the Joint Chiefs' Requirements Oversight Council in 2008. The Navy's plan for acquiring T-AKE 14 was approved by the Defense Acquisition Board in 2008.

California's metalworking industry thanks you for your commitment to our state and strongly urges you to support the full funding of the Navy T-AKE program. Thank you.

Most Sincerely,

  
James Simonelli  
Executive Director